SECRETARY: R.J.Neate
22 Pakenham St.,
BLACKBURN, VIC. 3130

TREASURER: K.Dorman
32 Raleigh St.,
BLACKBURN, VIC. 3130

NEWSLETTER: JUNE 1995

On JUNE 19TH. - have a cool Yule!

Enjoy a Christmassy night in its correct milieu - Winter. The weather may be cool but you can be sure of warm good fellowship as you get together with fellow members - "HOLIDAY INN," (launching pad for "White Christmas")- and a Christmas cake supper.

MAIN FEATURE: "HOLIDAY INN" (Paramount) 1942. Prod./Dir.Mark Sandrich
When released, garnered unanimously favourable reviews - grossed a fortune - and even had a chain of motels named after it.
Led by Bing, Fred Astaire, Marjorie Reynolds and Virginia Dale, the cast also includes Walter Abel, in a frenziedly funny role as the entertainers' manic manager - Louise Beavers - Harry Barris - and Bob Crosby's Bob Cats.
The original story came from Irving Berlin, who, of course, also provided the memorable music.
Mary Martin was favoured for the leading female role, but "reported in" pregnant.(Larry Hagman??) Rita Hayworth was then considered, but the role eventually went to the excellent Marjorie Reynolds, in her first feature part.
This was also the first teaming of Bing and Fred Astaire.
One major highlight was Bing's first, and best, version of "WHITE CHRISTMAS," which went on to become the biggest-selling record of all time - won the Academy Award for best film song of the year - and was in the U.S.Tops of the Pops charts for seventeen weeks, eleven as No.1.
Another top segment was Fred Astaire's amazing firecracker dance - at the time reputed to be the fastest dance routine ever filmed by motion picture cameras.
The plot, following the break-ups and make-ups of two Show Biz couples, moves from New York, to snowy Connecticut, to Hollywood, and is thoroughly entertaining and spiced throughout with Irving Berlin's swag of "national holiday" songs, with "White Christmas" joined by "EASTER PARADE," "HOLIDAY INN," "PLENTY TO BE THANKFUL FOR," "I CAN'T TELL A LIE," "LET'S START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT," "YOU'RE EASY TO DANCE WITH," "I'LL CAPTURE HER HEART SINGING," "ABRAHAM," "LAZY," and "HAPPY HOLIDAY."

SUPPORT: "GOLD DIGGERS IN PARIS" (Warner Bros) 1938
Rudy Vallee/Rosemary Lane. With Hugh Herbert, Allen Jenkins, and Gloria Dickson.
The story revolves around a mistaken identity situation. The French government, wrongly believing Rudy and his band of entertainers are connected with the American Ballet Company, invites them to appear at the Paris Exposition. The group manages to make a good impression, mainly through some excellent musical numbers, and the brilliant staging of dance routines by the inimitable Busby Berkeley.
Among the songs are THE LATIN QUARTER - A STRANGER IN PAREE (Al Dubin/Harry Warren) - and DAY DREAMING ALL NIGHT LONG, WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS and MY ADVENTURE, all by Harry Warren and Johnny Mercer.
*Our screening of this movie is by courtesy of Bernie Mullens' extensive library. Thanks Bernie.

As usual, the venue is the GRIERSON THEATRE, approached from the back entrance off Treasury Place, City - where a private free car park is available.
Start time - 7.15 p.m. sharp.

And before leaving the subject of our film nights - all those in the audience on May 8th.were impressed by member Mario Zanatta's compilation of highlights from "those glorious MGM Black & White Musicals." Congratulations and thanks Mario. It's good to know we can look forward to more of the same.

****

DINNER DANCE

After the outstanding success of last year's function, another Dinner Dance has been set for 16TH.SEPTEMBER.. again at the Musicians' Club, 65 Wellington St., Windsor ..again featuring Danny Keating and his music .. and again, importantly, at the very low cost of $15.00 a head, including 3-course meal. (Drinks to be paid for at the bar, at reduced prices).
At least 120 participants are required to make the function financially viable, and a positive indication of your intention to attend would be appreciated ASAP. (Deadline for payment - August 14). See enclosed "flyer" for full details.

****

SPECIAL WELCOMES ... to radio personality CLARK SINCLAIR, who will be our special guest at the June Film Night.

to new members LYNDON WARE (who is actually re-joining. Lyndon was a member in 1984) - COLIN WILLIAMS - ROGER & JENNIE PERTZEL - and FRANK STRACHAN.

and hopefully, to JAN MACHLISS who, we trust, will be able to join us on June 19th. as a very special guest.
**Enclosed with your newsletter, you'll find a re-print of an item printed in the I.C.C.journal, "Bing," in late May, 1968, introducing our late founder and president, BOB MACHLISS, and his then fiancée, Janet.

****

INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

A most dependable source of valuable and entertaining up-dates on Bing's 50-year career, and on recent CD, book and video releases, is the I.C.C.Magazine "BING" Membership of the I.C.C., at a cost of $30.00 (Aust.) a year, secures the forwarding of three magazines a year. If the fee presents a problem, it could perhaps be solved by three or more people sharing a membership. (Bob Neate has application forms).

A sad lead story from the April '95 issue reports the death of JOHN JOYCE, long-time Crosby stalwart. His impact on the Crosby scene was huge. He made numerous prestige publications about Bing available - he set the benchmarks for the printing and format of the current "Bing" magazine - and one of his many projects was the Fred Reynolds series of books, "The Crosby Collection." He was also a District Governor for Lions International, and worked tirelessly for many other good causes. Leading members of the International Crosby Circle attended his Requiem Mass, and at the crematorium, where the playing of Bing's recording of "The Peace Prayer of St.Francis" provided a poignant mement.
Vale John - a man to be missed by all.

****

"BING CROSBY - A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY"

J.Roger Osterholm's magnificent reference book on Bing is now available. The Committee has purchased a copy on behalf of members, and it certainly provides an encyclopaedic coverage of its subject. 390 tightly-packed pages include a biography, chronology, discography, filmography, radiography, videography (i.e. TV listings) and a bibliography.

As previously advised, normal U.S.price is $65.00, but for members of the BingThings Society, this is discounted to $52.00 U.S. As the Victorian Bing Crosby Society is a member, you may buy at this price. Bob Neate has Order Forms.

****

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FILM SHOWINGS

The Committee is interested in hearing the opinions of members on making our Film Night a "Film Afternoon." Sunday 2.00-5.00 p.m. If we wanted to give the idea a trial run, the Grierson Theatre is available on Sunday, August 13, to replace the August 14 Film Night.
Make your thoughts known at our June get-together. Or, if you find it difficult to attend at night, call Bob Neate re the proposal on (03) 9877 1983.

****

BONUS CROSBY C.D.

The Morley House Direct Marketing Winter Catalogue includes a special offer in Golden Oldies C.D.'s. A set of 10 CD's is priced at $59.95 (plus $9.00 postage and handling) - and with each purchase, a FREE bonus is a further CD, "BING CROSBY - THE ONE AND ONLY," featuring recordings from the 1930's. The set of 10 comprises GOLDEN HITS OF THE 50'S WITH DORIS DAY, FRANKIE LAINE and THE PLATTERS - THE BEST OF COLE PORTER - FERRANTE & TEICHER/PIANO MAGIC - LIBERACE/MR.SHOWBIZ - LOUIS ARMSTRONG/ALL STAR JAZZ - THE MUSIC OF IRVING BERLIN - GLENN MILLER - SHIRLEY BASSEY - THE BEST OF GEORGE GERSHWIN - and THE BEST OF MANTOVANI.
If interested, orders can be phoned through to (03)9555 9844 (STD-Freecall 1-800-33-1370) 9.00-5.00 weekdays, 10.00-1.00 Saturdays. *Quote Item Code CDCM. Or you could request that a catalogue & order form be sent to you. If ordering, have Credit Card handy.

****

RECORD NEWS

On North Queensland radio, "Good Morning Show" presenter Nicola Stapleton featured a "Bing Sings" segment as a 75th.Birthday tribute to her father, England's Ralph Harding, a veteran Crosby stalwart. Ralph has now produced an interesting 90-minute cassette which includes the tribute - soundtrack songs from "Blue Skies," including those deleted from the film - and Kraft Music Hall excerpts "Side by Side," "Amor," and a "Sonny Boy" parody duetted by Bing and Sonny Tufts. This is priced at £2stg. which includes postage for U.K. International Crosby Circle members. Extra would need to be added for Australia. The I.C.C.receives 50 pence from each cassette sold, and Ralph's address is "Crosbyana," 67 Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glam. South Wales, United kingdom, CF48 ISE.

Also in England, George Harwood is still offering cassettes of Bing and Buddy Cole material. (Full list in "BING" Magazine 108 - held by committee). Price for the entire collection is £21.99 stg.(which includes postage within U.K.) George will also prepare cassettes of individual songs provided they are ordered in alphabetical order, with each C90 costing £4.99.
Address: 5 Glebe Rd., Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs U.K.PE18 9DS.

The current "BING" Magazine (109) includes details of some 20-plus new CD's either totally or part Crosby, ranging from Hawaiian, Christmas and general favourites, to radio highlights,to show tunes. Again, ask to see the committee's copy for the full list...but one most would find to be of particular interest is "WE'RE JUST WILD ABOUT HARRY." All the material for this, comes from the marvellous radio era, 1939-1945. Most of these KMH songs come complete with introductions, which makes them even more enjoyable, and Bing is in fine voice, with guests including Trudy Erwin and Marilyn Maxwell.

Virtually all the material is new to CD,although it has been previously released on LP.

DEREK PARKES advises that the "poor service of 1994" (stemming from an amalgam of physical and personal problems) is now a thing of the past and says "fortunately the future now looks good and no more major difficulties are anticipated." Anyone who has ordered, or intends ordering, from his Crosby Collectors' Club, is advised that the name has been changed to "THE CROSBY COLLECTOR," and the new address is 42 Sarum Close, Salisbury, Wilts, U.K.

And you're reminded that MIKE KAPIANIS, of 64 Kingsley Drive, Yonkers, New York, U.S.A.10710, is disposing of his entire Bing Crosby collection, including over 800 78's,10" & 12" LPS, 16" Transcriptions, and Test Pressings, plus hard-cover books, and Sheet Music. See last month's Newsletter or the committee for further details.

****

MISCELLANEOUS

First and most importantly, our best wishes to Bob and Joyce Lundberg, founders of the "Bingthings Society." Bob, unfortunately, is not well at the moment after surgery in March. Hope the convalescence isn't too long Bob, and that you're soon back at the helm of your beloved "Bingthings."

David Currington, Australian representative of the I.C.C., was in Melbourne recently, and was squired around the town by Bob Neate and Ron Were. David has contacted us with his thanks - and thanks also to Bob and Ron for their efforts.

The world-wide upsurge of interest in Crosbyana continues. CD's continue to appear in abundance, and Bing has also been fairly prominent on laserdics. Major Crosby film festivals have been seen on TV in the U.K. and Ireland, while in America the Movie Classics channel presented 23 Crosby films screened consecutively from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day.

A recent AMC magazine article on Bing included the often-forgotten fact - "Nobody has sold more records than Bing. Not the Beatles - not Sinatra - not Michael Jackson. NOBODY!"

Colleagues and associates of Bing whose deaths have been reported in recent months include:-

Martha Raye and Virginia Dale, both of whom died last October. (Virginia, one of the stars of "Holiday Inn.")

Tom Ewell - September '94

Cab Calloway - November '94

Dennis Morgan - Autumn '94

And finally, a reminder of upcoming Film Night dates, apart from June 19.

AUGUST 14(or 13) OCTOBER 9 DECEMBER 4

** ** ** **

MAY 1968 JUST BEFORE THEIR
JUNE WEDDING -
BOB & JANET MACHLISS.

Bob started his collection in 1948 when he received a copy of **"TEDDY BEARS PICNIC"** from a friend. It started a love affair of Bing which never stopped. Early in 1977, a group of Collectors and admirers got together to discuss forming a **"Bing Crosby Society"** The success of this meeting led to a formal society being formed on September 15th.

A committee was elected and we were off and running. Over the years Bob put in many hours keeping us, the members, informed of local and overseas news of Bing topics. Sadly, we lost Bob on Tuesday April 27 1993, after a long battle against Motor Neurone Disease. Long standing and recent members are all indebted to him for his tireless and loving work on our behalf.

THANK YOU, BOB.

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE ELECTED MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1977.

PRESIDENT	-	BOB MACHLISS.
VICE PRESIDENT	-	KEN ORREN.
TREASURER	-	THELMA WOOD.
SECRETARY	-	AUDREY EVANS.
OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS	-	JIM McMANUS.
	-	LES SAYNOR.
	-	ADRIAN FOWLER.
	-	BILL BENNETT.